Dr Torrey Read. may 28 New Albany March 15th 1836
Answd Apr. 8th

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Sir

On my return home last spring my time was so much occupied in commencing the drug and apothecary business in addition to my practice that I had no time to devote to botanical pursuits till the middle of summer. But from this time to the end of the season I made an addition to my catalogue of 187 species, besides a few that I have not yet determined, & perhaps some of them are new species. Of these (the ascertained species) about 40 are grasses and a few Cyperaceae. — I have found the study of the grasses much more interesting than I anticipated, though in some cases I have experienced considerable difficulty from the want of specimens for comparison, and shall endeavor to remedy this inconvenience by procuring Dr Grays specimens of the grasses &c on my next visit to New York.

Mr Griswold informed me that he & Dr Short had sent specimens of the same species to you & Dr Gray that had at one time been named the Agrost. latiflor. and ~~at one other~~ afterwards the Polypogon racemosa, and he pronounced what I had called the Agros. latif. to be the Polypog. racem. — On a reexamination I was confirmed in my first opinion especially as it differed widely from the generic character of Polypog. I ~~also~~ suggested ~~the~~ to Mr G. that they had probably been been ~~to~~ led into an error by the similarity of habit of the A. Lat. & the Pol. rac. & was shortly after confirmed in my opinion ~~shortly afterwards~~, on examining a specimen from Cincinnati that had the characters of Polypog. racem. though its general appearance was precisely that of the Ag. lat. which is very abundant in this place — Dr Short on his visit to this place, pronounced what I had called the Cin. arundin. (which he admitted was its former name) to be the

Muhlenbergia cinna. All my specimens agree with Muhlenberg's description of Cin. arund., and certainly do not agree with the Generic character of Muhlenbergia. — Muhlenbergia diffusa is also in the same predicament, said now to be a Vilfa — If you will enlighten me on this subject you will confer a particular favor

You will probably recollect ~~that~~ the Halesia tetrap. was in my list of plants, ~~that~~ was a mistake owing to a blunder of mine in mistaking the Euonymus atropur. with immature fruit for the Halesia

I made two trips of 3 days each to the Barrens last fall, from 15 to 20 miles from this place. They are a kind of prairie destitute of trees and covered with shrubs or grass; the former are called bushy & the latter grassy barrens. They are more hilly or undulating & not so fertile ~~than~~ as what are generally called prairies They are by far the finest field for a botanist that I ever beheld. A much greater number of species are found in the same space than I have observed ~~on~~ in any other place. It is indeed like a botanic garden but much more interesting. My visits to the barrens were on the four first of Augst & September, and I found many species that I have not seen in this neighborhood. — On my first trip the gaudy & brilliant Gerardia purpurea was in full bloom, and extended throughout out the whole of the barrens, but I saw it ~~somewhere~~ in no other place, not even around cultivated fields. —

The specimens that I now have are the greater part of them badly preserved owing to many of them being kept for several days in a vasculum, or standing in water till I could get time to determine the species, before they were put into the press; consequently I can send you no specimens worth your acceptance till next fall when I shall probably visit your city — This year ~~will~~ so much time will not not probably be required to ascertain species and consequently I shall have more for collecting and preserving specimens — ~~[illegible]~~ I have 4 or 5 undetermined species of Aster about as many of Solidago one Helianthus & 2 specimens (all that I have seen) of a perfectly white liatris — The liatris resembles what I have called the L. sphaeroidea — also mosses [illegible] sp undetermined

I was somewhat surprised on the receipt of Dr Shorts' supplementary catalogue of the present winter to find upwards of 30 species from my catalogue 9 or 10 of which I know (on the authority of Mr Griswold) have not been found in Kentucky & perhaps many more. Sometime last season Mr Griswold advanced the opinion that there would be no impropriety in including the plants on this side of the river in ~~to~~ their (Dr Shorts') catalogue, at the same time observing that although some of them had not been found in Kentucky they probably would be, and at the same time advised me to add the plants in the vicin[illegible] of Louisville to my catalogue. I declined doing so, and observed that such a course would destroy the authority of botanical localities. The conversation terminated in some warmth on both sides. — The greater part of the plants were determined by myself before Mr Griswold came to Louisville and pointed out by me to him. Many of them are found in places where the soil is very different ~~now~~ from any in the adjoining ~~this~~ part of Kentucky.

Since the receipt of Dr Shorts' supplementary catalogue Mr Griswold informs me that he sent a note to ~~the~~ ~~him~~ Dr Short requesting him to designate those species ~~that~~ had been found only in this state. — I have just written to Dr Short on the subject ~~I should~~ & expect ere long to know more about it

How long before you publish your compendium I am very ~~ex~~ desirous of obtaining it. — Please to give ~~to~~ ~~give~~ my respects to Mrs Torrey and Dr Gray

Sincerely & Respectfully Yours A. Clapp

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

NEW ALBANY
MAR
17
Ind.

25

Prof. J. Torrey M.D.
City of New York

Mail

J. Torrey M.D. New Albany Oct. 1st 1838

Ans.d Dec 8th

Sir

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Your esteemed favor of the 16th Ult. was recd some days since and would have been answered immediately had not unexpected avocations prevented. I assure you that it gave me much pleasure to hear that your Flora of N. Am. was in the progress of publication. You will please to send 2 copies of each part by mail as fast as published, one for myself & the other for my friend Mr. Wm Jones of Portland Ky. both to be directed to this place. — enclosed are ten dollars.

Since my return my leisure hours have been mostly devoted to botany, a little geology and a small speck of conchology, that is collecting a few of our river uniones.

I have now 910 determined sp. of plants collected within 20 miles of this place on this side of the Ohio. Also about 20 undetermined sp. half of which I believe to be new. Among them a cyperaceous plant of which specimens are enclosed with the seeds. I have found it only in one locality growing in the crevices of perpendicular cliffs of limestone Jul. 13-37. It appears to be monoecious the staminate spike empty

[Carex paupercula Michx.]

and the seeds of the pist. spike apparently mature projecting beyond the scales. — I have another very singular plant (to me) of which I cannot determine even the Nat. Ord. to which it belongs. Root perpendicular suberose radicles verticillate— Stem 12 to 24 in. high, stricte, pith large— Lvs. opp, lanceolate very entire veinless 2½ to 3½ In. long— acid to the taste. — Axils bulbiferous, bulbs or buds, red 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch in length, easily detached— Not a vestige of fls. or fruit. — Found Sept: 15–38 in a shady marshy place fed by cold springs, Can you tell me what it is?

I have nothing of value to contribute to the Leguminosae. The following plants are found in this vicinity which are not contained in Riddell's Syn. of western plants — Lespedeza sessilif. & Nuttallii Darl. Desmod. bracteos. & ciliare Lathyrus palustris & Galactia pilosa. The ~~another~~ ~~last~~ Galactia very rare, in one place only on the barrens. — Your Psoralea latifolia I have found in two localities, one near this place and the other on the barrens

Will you send me a description and the name of the Carex you had from me. I have collected a few more specimens from another locality. It much resembles some forms of the vulpinoidea (stip. M.) but flowers later

Please to accept my thanks for Mr Brown's Catalogue. To Dr Gray I am much obliged for his Monog. of the Am. Melanthaceae and his remarks on the Caryophyllaceae

After I left N. York I spent a week very agreeably in Phila and the May following was (unexpectedly to me) elected a correspondent of the Acad. of Nat. Sci.

Please to excuse this tedious letter — My respects to Dr Gray and believe me sincerely your most Obedt Servt.

A. Clapp

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

NEW ALBANY
OCT
2
Ind.

50

John Torrey M. D.
City of New York
corner of McDougal & Prince

J. Torrey M.D.   New Albany April 23rd 1839

Recd May [illegible]

Sir

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ansd May 27

Yours of Jan. 9th was duly recd. For your kindness in attending to my request to purchase the lens's &c accept of my warmest thanks.

I have put up a few plants that will be handed to you by the Rev. E. R. Beadle, to whom I have taken the liberty of giving a letter of introduction to you. Mr Beadle is a gentleman of high intellectual culture, an eloquent able minister of the gospel, of the most devoted and unaffected piety, and is held in the highest estimation by all his friends and acquaintance. He does not expect to be in New York till the 5th of May and will leave Boston about the middle of the month on a mission to Beirout via Smyrna. Since putting up the plants I have ascertained that the Aster virgatus? Ell. is probably the laevis L. — You will probably find several errors in the names of the plants, as I have not had the opportunity of examining authentic specimens. Please to correct my errors and inform me what they are, and if there are any new species describe them. —— Has Dr Riddell of New Orleans sent you any of his new plants. I recd. a package from them last winter among which are two new genera Riddellia Raff. & Eberlia Riddell.

Geological studies & researches have for some years been interesting to me. Before I paid any attention to botany I had collected a few fossils and have since made some additions to my collection. Last winter Mr Beadle gave me the geological reports of the ~~state~~ of New York for 1837 & 8 by which I find (what I before suspected) that some of your formations are the equivalents of ours. The limestone of the falls of the Ohio and eastward is of the same geological era as that of Eifel & Bensberg in Germany as appears by the petrifactions especially Cyathophylla ~~[illegible]~~ Calamopora &c of Goldfuss. Some of our fossil Zoophites are not found in Goldfuss. —

I am very anxious to obtain your geological reports for last winter. Where can they be obtained? I cannot ascertain that any of the reports have been offered for sale by the booksellers

The errors in the article on Am. botany in Murray's geography are in respect to the geographical range of a few species, as you will perceive on a slight examination

I shall write to Mr Brooks a merchant of our City who will be in N. York 2 or 3 weeks hence to call & take the lens micrometer &c should you have recd. them.

Please to excuse the appearance of this ~~appearance of this~~ letter, as I am preparing to set out on a trip to the barrens to collect some of the early flowering plants of that interesting locality

Believe me sincerely your much
obliged & most obedt servt

A. Clapp

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

PAID

25

John Torrey M.D.
New York
Corner of Prince & McDougal

Dr. Torrey New Albany July 8th 1839

Recd. July 15th

Sir

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Your very interesting letter the 27th May was duly recd. I am very glad to hear that some of the plants were acceptable.

The Prenanthes crepidinea is a rare plant here, but I will endeavor to send you some more & better specimens. The Sedum telephioides is abundant in one locality about 13 miles from this place, and I shall collect more specimens of it when in flower. — With respect to the Zizia cordata? of Aug. 2nd" I have either lost the label or sent you the original without taking a copy. Will you send me a copy of the label.

I am not mistaken as to the Sonchus floridanus with yellow fls. — In one locality where the plant is abundant I have examined many when the fls. were expanded, they do not appear to differ from those with blue fls. except in the color of the florets which is a paler and more dull yellow than those of the Lactuca elongata. I am however well aware that yellow & blue flowers are extremely rare in the same species.

The Smilax I think is distinct from the caduca.

I have from 7 to 9 species of this difficult genus. It is rare to find specimens in flower or fruit.

12 or 13 days ago I sent by Mr Thornton a small package of plants, among which are some that I have not been able to determine. The species of Crataegus have given me some trouble, and the genus seems to require revision very much.

I have now about 920 determined species of flowering and filicoid plants collected within 20 miles of N. Albany. The region explored is 33 miles in length and about 20 in breadth. But I am very far from being well acquainted with all the plants (belonging to about half of the Nat. Orders of the whole world) and some of my determinations may not be correct, though I think I have the above number of species exclusive of varieties that have been considered as species by some botanists.

How far has Endlicher's Gen. Plant. progressed and when will it be completed?

I do not find the Raphanus raphanistrum in your Flora N. A. Is it not a naturalized plant?

[It is described.

Please to write as soon as convenient as I am very anxious to have your opinion on the plants &c

Sincerely your much obliged
and most Obedt Servant

A. Clapp

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Ansd.

New Albany Oct. 12th 1840

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

Sir

This is the third letter (besides one sent by a private hand, that was stolen with other papers) that I have written without receiving an answer, and I should not presume to trouble you with another did I not think they may have ~~to~~ miscarried, or have been forgotten in intense application to your very interesting & engrossing pursuits.

Mr Jones as well as myself is very anxious to obtain the last 2 Nos of your excellent Flora, for which ten dolls. were advanced two years since.

I am well aware how valuable and how much occupied your time must be, and should not intrude upon it, but it being a matter of business I cannot allow myself to believe there is any intentional neglect.

Did Dr Gray obtain the lens &c in Europe?

Very Respectfully yours A. Clapp

J. Torrey M.D.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

50

New Albany Nov. 10th 1840

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

Dr Sir

Yours of 24th Oct. was recd a few
days since, which very much cheered my droop=
ing spirits for I began to fear that you had
entirely forgotten my humble self, and com=
menced an examination of my own conduct
in relations to correspondents which proved any=
thing but satisfactory, and firmly resolved to
sin no more. But I have not the excuse
that you have and feel amply repaid if I can
get one letter in return for several.

It gives me much pleasure to hear that your
excellent Flora is progressing and I will send
the first opportunity some of our asters soli=
dagoes &c. I have not botanized much this
year and do not expect to find many more sp.
in this vicinity. The collection and examina=
tion of our fossils especially the Polyparia (for
which my location is peculiarly favorable) and
the study of the German Language has occupied
my leisure hours the year past. But do not im=
agine that I shall prove recreant to the study
of Botany — It is the most delightful of pursuits
but I cannot make a satisfactory catalogue until

from the J. J. Crooke Collection

Given by A. M. VAIL.

your Flora is completed.

I read with much interest and profit Dr Gray's able communications in the July No of Sill. Jour. as well as some previous ones and ardently hope they will be continued. — The possession of a complete Chevalier would be a pleasure that I must forego for a while, as my outlays for works on fossils &c are and will be heavy in these hard times.

The lens of $\frac{1}{48}$th inch focus is the 32nd of an inch if I rightly comprehend it. — I have a doublet of $\frac{1}{20}$ inch focus which is nearly the same power as yours of $\frac{1}{2}$ line. Please to send me the $\frac{1}{48}$th inch and one of as low a power as $\frac{1}{4}$ inch if conven=ient. A micrometer graduated to the 500th of an inch I think would be the most useful. If the above articles can be inclosed in a letter and sent by mail you will much oblige me by doing so. — Some of Ehrenberg's fossil Infusoria will be gladly accepted.

We (Mr Jones & Myself) have not yet recd. the last 2 Nos. of your Flora N. A. A small balance is probably due on them. Whatever it may be, or the Amt. due if any on the Lenses &c more than the $20 will be sent by mail immediately — My best respects to Dr Gray

Very Respectfy your most Obedt Sv A. Clapp